CNG stations in Tamil Nadu

897. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CNG filling stations which have been established in Tamil Nadu for the use of automobiles and what are the places at which they are functioning;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of retail selling CNG stations; and

(c) if so, the places at which they are likely to be established in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) At present, there are no CNG filling stations in Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) CNG will be progressively introduced in polluted cities, including those in Tamil Nadu, with the expansion of the pipeline infrastructure and the increased availability of natural gas, and also subject to economic viability.

Promotion of LPG as auto fuel

898. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many cities have been affected due to high vehicular pollution in the country;

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government are considering to encourage use of CNG or LPG as a fuel for controlling the vehicular pollution in the country; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are aware that a large number of vehicles are running on LPG without proper permission in the country; and

(e) if so, what are Government's views and the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Use of CNG and auto LPG is being encouraged to reduce pollution in various cities. Subject to availability of natural gas and necessary infrastructure, CNG is proposed to be

introduced in various cities in a phased manner. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are also progressively introducing auto LPG at their retail outlets in different cities as per the demand.

As on July, 2005, the State-wise details of CNG stations of JVs/PSUs are as under:—

State	City	No. of CNG stations
Delhi	Delhi	133
Uttar Pradesh	Noida	2
Maharasthra	Mumbai	106
Gujarat	Vadodara & Vaghodia	02*
Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	01

*A few CNG outlets have also been set up by some private/multi-national companies in Gujarat.

As on 1.4.2005, 105 Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) are also in operation in the country.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The following measures have been taken by the Government to forestall the misuse of domestic LPG cylinders in vehicles:—

(i) State Governments have been advised to impress upon district authorities the need to intensify their supervision of LPG driven vehicles and take action as per law in case of violations.

(ii) Supplies to domestic LPG distributors are regulated by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in line with the customer population and per capita consumption of that market, based on last year's sales for the same month.

(iii) Publicity campaigns are launched by OMCs from time to time to make the public aware about the hazards associated with the unauthorized use of domestic LPG cylinders as auto LPG.

Information on bio-fuels

899. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2278 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd March, 2005 and state: